

Extra-Academic Studies

The School of Technology

Course development and operation

This year we completed the updating of study units software engineering, electronics, and industrial engineering and management and published two textbooks: *Work Measurement and Experiments and Hardware Design Using VHDL*.

The Open University and the School of Technology have an agreement with Microsoft according to which the School offers a series of three courses towards an MCAD degree (Microsoft Certified Application Developer for Microsoft.NET credential) for continuing students. There is growing demand for this program. This year, for the first time, the courses were offered in a graded format. The first course in the program was offered in the Fall semester and the first two courses in the Spring semester. The first course was offered again in the Summer semester.

Four additional courses offered by the School of Technology were computerized by *Shoham* this year: three in the Software Engineering track and one (English) common to all tracks. A total of 24 courses offered by the School of Technology have been computerized.

Registration data – 2003-2004

Courses in the Technician/Practical Engineer track	981
Continuing education for teachers and vocational courses	440
Integrated program combining studies towards a Practical Engineer's diploma with academic courses	198
Total	1,619

Graduates

In 2003-2004, 30 graduates received practical engineering or technician degrees; 25 students received a certified electrician degree; 10 completed an inter-organizational course in electronics; and 129 teachers completed continuing education courses in technological fields.

Studies at the Beer Sheva Campus

At the Beer Sheva campus, studies are offered toward diplomas in the following areas: Industry and Management Practical Engineer, Electronics Practical Engineer and Industry and Management Technician.

The Extra-Academic Studies Center

The Extra-Academic Studies Center includes four schools: *Ascolot*, *Hasifa*, *DiAlog* and *Tafnit*. The latter two function under the roof of the Center for Management, Languages and Computers. In 2003-2004, about 16,800 students studied in the four schools. 12,319 of them took part in in-house activities within the workplace or institution. Hundreds of courses and programs were offered in a variety of fields in certificate, training, enrichment, personal development and organizational development study programs. About 4,500 individuals took part in symposia, workshops, open days for the public, and cultural activities given by foremost lecturers from academia and a variety of professional areas.

The Center's activities are conducted at Open University facilities throughout the country, primarily in Tel Aviv, Hakfar Hayarok, Haifa, Beer Sheva, Jerusalem and Kfar Saba.

Ascolot – School of Interdisciplinary Studies

In recent years the School has offered not only short courses but also certificate studies in varied areas; for example, a course qualifying tour guides for tours abroad, and literary and journalistic editing. This year the “Mercaz Habama” branch in Ganei Tikva was operated for the first time with the participation of about 400 students.

Hasifa – School of Communications, Television and Multimedia Arts

A “Digital Happening”, the School’s annual event, took place in the summer. The “Happening” serves as a platform for graduates to display their work, including animated films and digital media projects. Close to 3,000 visitors attended the event that was held at Hakfar Hayarok. In addition, a symposium was held at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque on “Animated Film Character” in collaboration with the Israeli chapter of the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA Israel). The program included lectures and screenings of Israeli and international animations.

Tafnit – Continuing Education for Managers

In addition to activities for managers, *Tafnit* conducts training programs in collaboration with the IDF Human Resources Directorate for all combat soldiers with the aim of preparing them for civilian life. At these workshops, in which about 9,970 soldiers have participated to date, participants also learn about the Open University and the study options it offers. Many of the School’s activities involve in-house training programs in management-related topics tailored to the client’s needs, characteristics and resources. Training programs focus on up-to-date topics from the world of management and are designed in collaboration with decision-makers within the organization to ensure that the training and its outcomes are directed towards the goals set by the client.

DiAlog – School of Languages

In addition to language studies offered to the general public, *DiAlog* teaches families of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister’s Office serving abroad a wide variety of languages, among them: English, Spanish, French, Arabic, German, Greek, Russian, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Dutch, Portuguese and Turkish.

Beit Ayala

The Open University has been offering courses at *Beit Ayala* for over a decade. The building has three study halls: a hall seating about 70 students, a conference room for about 30 students and a room seating about 20 students. Morning courses are offered on varied topics. In 2003-2004, 2,559 students, mostly pensioners, took morning courses.



In the evenings, courses are offered for the general public, focusing primarily on music, architecture, art, philosophy and culture. A younger audience, usually of working age, attends these courses. In 2003-2004, about 1,500 students attended evening courses at Beit Ayala.

There has been a moderate increase in the number of students over the past three years. Nonetheless, the small number and size of the study halls in the building limits the number of students in the various courses. It should also be noted that subsidized bodies, such as the school for pensioners run by Tel Aviv Municipality as well as the Popular University, compete for the same segment of the population.

Continuing Education and Projects for Teachers

In addition to academic courses awarding a degree, the Open University offers various continuing education programs and projects for the teaching community, through the Continuing Education for Teachers Unit, the Tamid Project, the School of Technology and the English Unit. This year, the various courses and projects for teachers were affected by budget cuts and the anticipation of the Dovrat Commission recommendations.

Continuing Education for Teachers Unit

Science and technology in society – Mutav (Designing Assessment Tools): This program is intended for high school students who do not major in the sciences. Student performance is assessed on the basis of an exam and a portfolio. The Open University trains and supports science teachers who participate in the program in developing project portfolios, both as an exercise and when implementing the program in the school.

“Betzavta” (Together): This unique Ministry of Education program was designed to integrate children with learning disabilities into mainstream classes in the junior high school. The Open University trained teachers in a variety of teaching methods, in understanding the world and special needs of pupils with difficulties, and in guiding them in ways of learning which best suit these pupils.

“Shivim Panim” (70 Faces): This program develops alternative assessment methods in Bible Studies and Oral Law in high schools belonging to the National-Religious sector.

Teacher training (Internship): The Open University Continuing Education for Teachers Unit accompanies graduates who received a teaching certificate at the Open University in their

internship during their first year of teaching. This internship is a prerequisite for receiving a teaching license from the Ministry of Education.

Teaching/learning skills – Ashdod Municipality Project: The Open University is a partner in an experimental municipal project in Ashdod high schools aimed at inculcating teaching/learning methods among teachers and promoting pupils' literacy skills.

Unique continuing education programs: The Open University Continuing Education for Teachers Unit offers a wide variety of continuing education programs for teachers both in schools and at study centers during the school year and in the summer. The continuing education programs offered this year included a program on learning strategies and on developing exams. The summer training programs this year were offered for a fee and addressed broad content areas such as: attention deficit disorders – practical implications for teachers and parents; giftedness, learning disorders and in between; developing an exam kit; pedagogic coordination of study tracks in technological colleges. Enrichment for teachers was also offered, including a program on biographical and auto-biographical writing.

Other Continuing Education Frameworks

Tamid, Computer Communication for Teachers – Knowledge and Didactics: *Tamid* is a unique model for teachers' professional development that was developed as a pilot project by the Open University for science and civics teachers. Today *Tamid* is a joint project of the Open University and the Center for Educational Technology (CET), financed by the Ministry of Education and the Rothschild Foundation. This year, the Open University was responsible for the programs in science and civics, the CET was responsible for programs in literacy, and there was joint responsibility for programs in English and innovative pedagogy. About 1,000 teachers participated in a total of 23 courses conducted in 43 groups.

Continuing education for teachers in mechanics, electronics and communication systems: These continuing education programs were conducted at the Haifa campus, Beit Biram.

Continuing education for English teachers: This year the course “Teaching English to Pupils with Learning Disabilities and to Pupils with Difficulties”, taught to date in face-to-face sessions, was adapted to online teaching.